

Appl. No.: 10/775,828
Amendment Dated January 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2005

KNS-121US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-23 stand objected to because: (1) "It is not clearly understood what was intended by the phrase 'a back surface substantially rotationally symmetric with respect to said center axis, said back surface having a continuous curvature that is at a maximum radius in proximity of said center axis and decreases towards a back circumference of said plunger pin' as recited in claims 1 and 13", and (2) "the term 'ACE' should be spelled out at least once in each base claim." Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Further, the term "ACE" has been spelled out in claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to claims 1-23.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagatsuka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,204,681). Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kazama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,655). Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoskizawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,891,406).

Claim 1, as amended, includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, for example:

[a] plunger pin configured for slidable retention in a carrier frame of a package testing apparatus . . . comprising . . . a first section having a first diameter, the first section being adjacent a first end portion of the plunger pin . . . a second section having a second diameter, the second section being adjacent a second end portion of the plunger pin; and . . . a third section having a third diameter, the third section being disposed between the first section and the second section, the third diameter being less than both the first diameter and the second diameter.

These features are disclosed in the originally filed application at, for example, Figs. 2-3 and Figs. 6-7. No new matter has been added.

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The above-recited configuration of a plunger pin is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. For example, the above-recited configuration provides for a plunger pin geometry configured for slidable retention within a carrier frame because the third section (between the first and second sections) has a smaller diameter than either of the first and the second section. Thus, the plunger pins are configured for slidable retention in a carrier frame (e.g., a carrier frame with a retention flange or the like).

For example, in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the carrier frame includes resilient flanges such that the plunger pins are slid (e.g., forced) partially past the resilient flanges such that the third section (having a smaller diameter than the first or second section) is positioned adjacent the flange, and the larger diameters of the first and second sections (in conjunction with the flange) retain the plunger pin in engagement with the carrier frame.

Referring to Nagatsuka, contact tips 27 are disclosed at Figs. 7-9. Another contact tip 50 is disclosed at Fig. 10. Contact tips 27 (nor contact tips 50) do not have the above-recited configuration of claim 1 of the present application. For example, contact tips 27 do not have a third section (between first and second sections) with a smaller diameter than either of the first and the second section. Neither Kazama nor Yoshizawa make up for the deficiencies of Nagatsuka with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record. Claim 13, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those recited above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 13 is also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above. Each of claims 2-12 and 14-23 depend from one of claims 1 and 13. Thus, claims 2-12 and 14-23 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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January 23, 2006


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